

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allah,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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King Fahd National Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Mujahid Abdul Malik

Loving our parents stories. / Abdu Malik Mujahid.-

Riyadh, 2012

Pages: 299 Size: 17x24 cm

ISBN: 978-603-500-128-1

1-Parents (Islamic ethics) 2- Islamic ethics

I-Title

212.5 dc 1433/6347

L.D. no. 1433/6347

ISBN: 978-603-500-128-1

Dedication

I dedicate this book to my respected father Muhammad Younus Sipra Kailani, a truly venerable person, and to my esteemed mother Razia Begum, who was extremely kind, and was always engaged in prayer. Her upbringing, based on Islamic tenets, has enabled me to compile this work.

By the Grace of Allah, the Most Glorious and the Exalted, they instilled in my heart and soul the love for Islamic Monotheism, Muhammad the Prophet of Allah ﷺ and his holy Companions. May Allah, the Most Glorious and the Exalted, accept my lifelong endeavors and make them a source of eternal reward for my revered parents and shower them with His boundless Mercy (*Amen*).

﴿رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا﴾

"My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did while raising me when I was young."¹



CONTENTS

Foreword.....	11
The Status of Parents in the Light of the Noble Qur'an.....	15
The Status of Parents in the Light of the Holy Traditions.....	17
Golden Ways to Please Parents.....	19
Golden Principles to Please Parents	20
Three Potent Prayers.....	26
Fitting Punishment for a Cruel Son	27
Power of a Mother's Prayer.....	30
Forgiveness for Kindly Treatment.....	33
Scholar of the Noble Qur'an	34
Preeminence of Awais Qarni	37
Saved from a Raging Fire.....	40
A Great Reward	41
You Reap What You Sow	48
A Nurse Discovers True Compassion.....	51
Divine Justice and Retribution	55
Worth and Importance of a Mother	58
Recipe for Long Life and Wealth	60

Abraham (عليه السلام) Prays for his Father	61
A Maternal Aunt's Status.....	63
Abandoned at the Seaside.....	64
An Intense Love	65
You and Your Possessions	70
The Right Choice.....	72
Warning to Others.....	74
Blind to the Truth	80
Serving Parents is <i>Jihad</i>	85
How to Treat Polytheistic Parents	86
A Plastic Plate.....	88
An Old Woman in a Cemetery.....	91
Answers in the Examination.....	93
Good Manners and Respect.....	95
Obedience of Yahya (عليه السلام) and Isa (عليه السلام).....	95
Reward for Sending Parents on <i>Hajj</i>	96
Contest between Apple and Ball.....	98
Memories of my Mother and Father.....	101
A Son is Crippled.....	110
A Few Other Golden Ways to Please Parents.....	116
Kind Words and Honorific Titles.....	117
Motivated by Greed.....	124



Repentance Comes Too Late	130
Gateway to Heaven.....	133
"My Love Prevents Me from Cursing Him"	135
Brothers Litigate over Mother.....	137
Sacrifice for the Hereafter	142
A Fortunate Bride	146
A Mother's Wish.....	150
Absolute Love and Respect	153
Wisdom from a Child	156
Seeking Mercy for Matricide.....	160
Losing Heaven.....	169
Regrets & Remorse.....	171
The Last Letter	176
A Mother's Curse.....	180
Prayer Removes a Rock.....	182
The Governor's Service.....	186
'O Son, May Allah Forgive You'	187
Precedence over <i>Jihad</i>	189
A Life is Spared	193
A Rich Man's Disgrace.....	195
The Noble Qur'an and the Vehicle	199
"The Greatest Sin of My Life"	202



Conduct of Imam Muhammad Bin Sirin.....	204
Half a Cloak.....	206
Status of Non-Believing Parents	208
Infidel Mother and Muslim Daughter.....	211
Permission for <i>Jihad</i>	213
A Few More Golden Lessons for Children.....	214
Feeding the Hen.....	222
Omar Bin Khattab (ؓ) Weeps	223
Warm Water in Jail	228
Elderly Woman Converts to Islam.....	230
Eye for a Son	232
A Gate to Paradise Closes.....	235
Wheel Comes Full Circle	236
Heaven on Earth	238
Hearts of Stone	239
The Woodcutter's Exalted Place.....	242
"Respect Your Father and Treat Him Well"	243
A Change of Fate	244
Bridging the Gap between Two Hearts.....	249
My Mother's Eight Lies	254



Good Relations with our Parents' Friends	258
'I Sleep in Paradise at Night'	261
A Few More Golden Ways to Please Parents	265
Virtuous Ways to Honor Them	266
Grandparents are Equally Important.	273
A Handful of Heaven.....	276
Miracle of Silah Rehmi	277
The Voice of a Donkey	280
'I Should Have Raised Him Properly'	281
'He'll Slaughter You Too'	283
A Wicked Son.....	284
Respect of a Great Philosopher	286
A Terrible Fate	288
Ibn-e-Taymiyyah's Letter to His Mother.....	290
Honor of Funeral Prayers in Makkah	292
Escaping Certain Death	297



F oreword

Islam commands its followers to contribute to the welfare, well-being and good of the Muslim community (*Ummah*). It forbids anything that causes mischief, sedition or harms the interests of the *Ummah*.

Allah, the Lord of Honor, exhorts His servants to perform good deeds and display good manners without any discrimination. This encompasses our kith and kin, friends, neighbors, the whole community, all Muslims, even people of other religious groups.

Islam enjoins on us to respect and obey parents. This is considered good

Loving Our **PARENTS**
Stories Of Duties & Obligations

manners under the *Shariah* (Islamic Law).

The importance of helping and behaving well toward our parents cannot be stressed enough.

These are real-life accounts that I have collected after going through quite a number of books. First I thought that I should include the stories that give accounts of good treatment of parents. Then I felt that stories about children disobeying their parents should also be included as lessons to be followed.

The pages of this book are sprinkled with stories on how to please parents, so that the readers are inspired to take action and earn their pleasure.

We should keep in mind that parents who are angry with their offspring immediately forgive them as soon as they repent. Parents need us whether they are alive or dead.

The real objective of this book is for readers to learn from the accounts of good behavior.

The tales of disobedience provide an opportunity for soul-searching: Are we committing such mistakes knowingly or unknowingly?

Unfortunately, there are instances in our society of defiant children who harass and disobey their parents. Their misdeeds end badly and stand out as examples and warnings to others, to mend their ways and earn Allah's Mercy.

There are many people in our society who have earned entry into Heaven by being extremely respectful to their parents. There are also others, who are paving their way to the hellfire by disobeying their parents.

Most of these stories have been selected from Arabic books and cassettes. The Egyptian colleague at our organization, Mr. Ashraf Sawi has cooperated closely in compiling this book. Brother Rizwanullah

Riazi has also helped a lot to render many stories into English from Arabic.

I am grateful to Dr Iftikhar Khokar (Islamabad), Hafiz Muhammad Nadeem of Darussalam, Lahore, Ahmad Kamran Dehlvi, Haroon-ur-Rashid and Gul Rehman amongst other friends and colleagues for suggesting corrections. I would like to express thanks to dear Hafiz Abdul Azeem Asad, the administrator, Darussalam, Lahore for his scrupulous attention to detail and supervision in producing this book. May this publication help inform our new generation about their duties and obligations toward their parents.

I look forward to getting feedback from esteemed readers!

Your brother
Abdul Malik Mujahid
Darussalam Publishers, Riyadh
Shaaban 1433 H/July 2012



The Status of PARENTS in the Light of the Noble Qur'an & Holy Traditions

The Status of Parents in the Light of the Noble Qur'an

Allah the Lord of Honor mentions the rights of parents in the Noble Qur'an as follows:

﴿وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾

"Worship Allah and join none with Him (in worship); and do good to parents."¹

As for treating parents kindly, Imam Ibn Kathir has stated that Allah Almighty commands His servants to treat them with utmost care and kindness because Allah, the Most Glorious and the Exalted, has created them from their mother from nothing. At several places Allah Almighty commands His slaves to worship Him, and He also enjoins them to be good and dutiful towards their parents. Allah the Lord of Honor says:

﴿قُلْ قَالُوا أَنْذَرَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا﴾

Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be good and dutiful to your parents."²

1 An-Nisa' 4: 36

2 Al-An'am 6: 151



Regarding the rights of parents, Allah the Lord of Honor states :

﴿وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا
إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا
إِذَا يَبْلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ
أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ
لَهُمَا آفٍ وَلَا نَهْرُهُمَا وَقُلْ
لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا﴾

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor."¹

Commentators of the Qur'an state that besides responding to the commands of Divine Providence, meeting the demands of obedience to parents is really necessary.

Especially in their old age, we are prohibited even from uttering a word of disrespect, let alone shouting at them. They are helpless, feeble and dependent, whereas their children are young and energetic and have sources of income. Their youthful exuberance is in sharp contrast to the seasoned old age of their parents. In such circumstances, it is obligatory to be dutiful towards parents and serve them at all times.

¹ Al-Isra' 17: 23



The Status of Parents in the Light of the Holy Traditions

Abdullah Bin Masood ؓ, a Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, excelled in doing good deeds. Once, wanting to earn the pleasure of Allah Almighty, he asked the Prophet ﷺ:

«أَيُّ الْأَعْمَالِ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى؟»

"Which deed is the dearest to Allah?" The Prophet ﷺ replied,

«الصَّلَاةُ عَلَى وَقْتِهَا»

"To say the prayers at their times." Then the Companion asked,

"What is the next good deed dearest to Allah?" The Prophet ﷺ said,

"To be good, obedient and dutiful to your parents."¹

¹ Sahih Bukhari, Mawaqitussalat, Hadith: 527



Golden Principles to Please Parents

Allah and His Messenger ﷺ have laid great emphasis on behaving well towards our parents, especially on being dutiful and obedient to our mothers. This means that when they grow old, we should honor and fulfil their wishes.

The rights of parents can never be fully discharged. However, there are some ways that can help us earn their pleasure and keep them happy.

For instance, on occasions such as *Eid-ul-Fitr*, *Eid-ul-Azha*, or at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, we should make sure that they are happy. We should seek their advice and honor their wishes in decisions concerning the marriage of our children or siblings, ask them what kind of clothing they would like to wear at the wedding and what gifts should be given to the newly-weds.

We should make our parents feel that they are consulted and taken on board in every matter. We may request that our mother or father accompany us to the market to buy clothes of their choice. If, for some reason they do not have the means to do so, we should buy clothes for them. We will notice their happiness and they will pray and bless us profusely.

We should also surprise them once in a while, depending on the occasion. We should suddenly give them things they like and need, saying very respectfully: "Dear mother (or father, as the case may be), I was at the market when I saw these things which you use and like, so I bought them for you. Please accept them." Such gestures are extremely gratifying to parents. It will please them immensely to get these types of thoughtful gifts from their children.

Once, when I was in America for work, I saw a seven-seater vehicle which caught my fancy in a showroom of old cars in Houston. So I purchased it. I rang my respected mother, informed her of the purchase and said that a seat in the vehicle was reserved for her. Hearing this news, her joy knew no bounds. She kept talking about it for many days telling her visitors and acquaintances that her son Abdul Malik had

We should make our parents feel that they are consulted and taken on board in every matter.

Power

of a Mother's Prayer

Hafiz Abu Bakr Tartoshi رحمہ اللہ, a famous religious scholar, has related an incident concerning *Barakah* (spiritual influence) of a mother's prayer. In his book he states that a lady came to Baqi Bin Mukhlid رحمہ اللہ, who lived in Andalusia. He was one of the most well-known and distinguished scholars of Andalusia and respected for his knowledge and piety. He was an ocean of knowledge and the paragon of sagacity. He was an expert in the

science of understanding and rationally judging the authenticity of Holy Traditions (*Dirayat*).

The lady told Baqi Bin Mukhlid that Romans had captured her son. She said that except for a small house, she had nothing to pay as ransom for his release. She added that she did not have any alternative shelter if she sold the house. She asked the scholar whether he knew any good-hearted person who could pay the ransom. She said, "Ever since my son was captured I have been restless and had sleepless nights. I am always praying for an end to the suffering of my son."

Baqi Bin Mukhlid said, "Let me think over it. *Insha-Allah* (If Allah so wills), I will help you in every possible way." He then bowed his head and prayed to Allah Almighty. The mother also knelt to supplicate and implore God for the release of her son. The mother's supplications were answered. A few days later, she again came to Baqi Bin Mukhlid رحمہ اللہ, this time accompanied by her son. She asked her son to tell the Shaikh about his capture and release. The son said, "A Roman prince captured me. I was languishing in his prison. A person was entrusted to keep watch over the prisoners. His behavior was very high-handed. He tied the shackles tightly, and made us suffer a lot. We

'Your mother's prayer has been answered. When Lord God has given you freedom, who are we to keep you in chains.'

You and Your Possessions

Sayyidina Jabir bin Abdullah رضي الله عنه relates that a young man came to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and said:

«يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! يُرِيدُ أَبِي أَنْ يَأْخُذَ مَالِي»

"O Allah's Prophet ﷺ! My father wants to take possession of my belongings."

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, «إِنِّي بِأَبِيكَ عَمْدِي» "Bring your father to me."

The young man went to his father and said, "The Holy Prophet ﷺ has ordered you to present yourself before him. Let's go there."

When the father came, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, «يَقُولُ ابْنُكَ أَنْتَ تَأْخُذُ مَالَهُ» "Your son has complained that you want to take possession of his belongings."

The father exclaimed, "O Prophet of Allah ﷺ! Please just ask my son whether I have taken his belongings to meet my own expenses or the needs of the children and his relatives."

Meanwhile Jibril عليه السلام came to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and said:

«يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! قَالَ هَذَا الشَّيْخُ فِي نَفْسِهِ شِعْرًا مَا وَصَلَ إِلَى أُذُنِهِ»

"O Allah's Prophet ﷺ! The elderly person has said some poetic verses in his heart that have not reached your ears."

The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked the elderly person, «هَلْ قُلْتَ فِي نَفْسِكَ شِعْرًا؟» "Have you said poetic verses in your heart?" The old man confirmed it and said, «لَا يَزَالُ يَزِيدُنَا اللَّهُ تَعَالَى بِكَ بِصِيرَةً وَبَقِيَّةً» "Allah Almighty strengthens our insight and belief about you all the time." He then read out the seven verses he had conceived in his heart. Below is the gist of these verses:

"When my son was born, I underwent many ordeals while taking care of him. When he fell ill, I had sleepless nights. I stayed awake the whole night. I was sad and upset whenever I found him in trouble, although I knew very well that death comes sooner or later. But this blood relation demands that a father assume the responsibility for protecting his son until death. Today, after being mistreated by my son, I feel as if I am a stranger not his father. O son, when you reached the threshold of youth, I cherished a sweet dream that you would earn your livelihood and lend me a helping hand. Glory be unto Allah, what a return I have received from you! Your behavior towards me has changed; you have become rude. You put on airs thinking that you have done me a great favor by being a little cooperative. Now I am heavily indebted to you. If you had been aware of the rights of your parents you might not have treated me as if I were an outsider!"

Sayyidina Jabir رضي الله عنه, the Companion who related this incident, reported that when the Holy Prophet ﷺ listened to these poetic verses, he broke into tears, held the son by collar the and said:

«إِذْهَبْ! أَنْتَ وَمَالُكَ لِأَبِيكَ»

"Go away! You and all your belongings are your father's."

This incident highlights a son's obligations to his father. A son should not get angry with his father even if he uses all his belongings. That's why the Holy Prophet ﷺ scolded the son.

1 Abjad-ul-Uloom: 1/330-332, Darul Kutab Al-'Ilmiya Beirut, research by Abdul Jabbar Za-kaar: 1978; Dalaail an-Nubuwwah Lil Baihaqi: 6/305

Reward for Sending Parents on

Hajj

A young Arab man related this incident about his behavior towards his parents. It has been reproduced from the book *"Sa'adat Darain fi Birr al-Walidain"*. He says that he decided one day to resign from his company. He received 32,000 dinars owed to him and went home with the cash. The money was important to him because he had no other assets.

This took place close to *Hajj* 1424 AH when many people intending to go on pilgrimage to Allah's House were busy making the necessary arrangements. When he arrived at home, he informed his parents about the money he had received from the company. Both his mother and his father said, "It's our wish that you give us this amount so that we can perform the obligation of *Hajj*."



"It's our wish that you give us this amount so that we can perform the obligation of *Hajj*."



He instantly said yes and gave them the dinars. Although he needed the money, he considered it more important to respect the wishes of his parents. Then he personally went to a Hajj travel agency to make the arrangements for his parents. After completing all the formalities he sent his parents on the blessed journey. Thank God, they performed *Hajj* successfully and returned home after two weeks.

One day he received a phone call from the manager of his former company, who told him that they still owed him money for the long years of service he had rendered. He thought it would be a small amount because he had already received money from the firm. He went to the company's office and met the manager who gave him a cheque in an envelope. He thanked the manager and went home. When he arrived at home, he tore open the envelope and found a cheque equal to the amount he had spent on the *Hajj* of his parents. God is truly glorious!

Seeking Mercy for Matricide

This is the shocking story of a person who killed his mother in the Egyptian city of Alexandria because she did not want him to marry a Jewish girl.

The narrator of the story, Abu Abdur Rehman, who met him in prison, states:

"One day when I was reading journals and magazines in my cell I saw a news story under the headline: 'A gory act jolts Alexandria.'

"According to the report a young man wished to marry a Jewish girl, but his mother was opposed to the union. She did not want a non-Muslim girl in their house because she feared that the faith of their children might be at stake. Despite her repeated misgivings, he insisted he wanted to marry the Jewish girl, come what may.

"When his mother said that the marriage would be an insult to their house, he went berserk and beat her to death.

"Although he killed his mother in a fit of rage and passion, he grew restless and had sleepless nights. After some time, he landed in a prison in Alexandria. At his trial, the judge, in keeping with Islamic law, gave



Alexandria harbor, Egypt

"The Greatest Sin of My Life"

The world knows him by the name Ibn-e-Abi Dunya. He was well known among the respected muhaddiths¹ and the first three virtuous Muslim generations. No book written about piety and morals does not have his stories. The following incident reproduced here was narrated by him, from Saiyyidina Ka'b Ahbar, who was

considered highly reliable even before he embraced Islam. Although this incident is about the Israelites, there is no harm in repeating it. Saiyyidina Ka'b Ahbar, was respected by the entire Jewish community. He was mentioned respectfully in scholarly circles. Ka'b Ahbar states, according to Ibn-e-Abi Dunya:

"There were three Israelites who were known far and wide for their piety and devotion to God. Once, during a conversation, they decided to recall not only their virtues but also their greatest sins.

"One of them said: 'As far as I'm concerned, the gravest sin that I've ever committed in my life happened when I was traveling with a companion. I hid behind a tree and when my companion came past, I jumped out from behind it and scared him. My companion said that I had frightened him to death. He told me that Allah would judge my actions. Perhaps I caused him anguish. I have never committed a bigger sin than that in my life.'

"The second person said: 'We Israelites have been exhorted to avoid urine splashing onto our skin. One day I felt the desperate need to urinate. That day I did not take proper care and I fear urine stained my clothes. I feel this was my biggest sin.'

"The third person said: 'Once my mother called me during a violent storm. I answered but the storm prevented her from hearing me. Infuriated, she came and shouted at me, and threw a stone at me. When I saw how angry she was, I brought her a rod and sat down in front of her, so that she could vent her rage by beating me with it. But my mother would not do it and left me there. In her hurry to get away she walked into a tree and injured her face. I think this was the greatest sin of my life.'

Dear readers, the third holy person considered a slight slip the greatest of his sins! Do we respect our mothers so much?

¹ Hilya-tul-Auliya (The Adornments of the Saints): 6/8, 9; Moso'atul Imam Ibn-e-Abi Dunya: 1/221, Hadith: 147